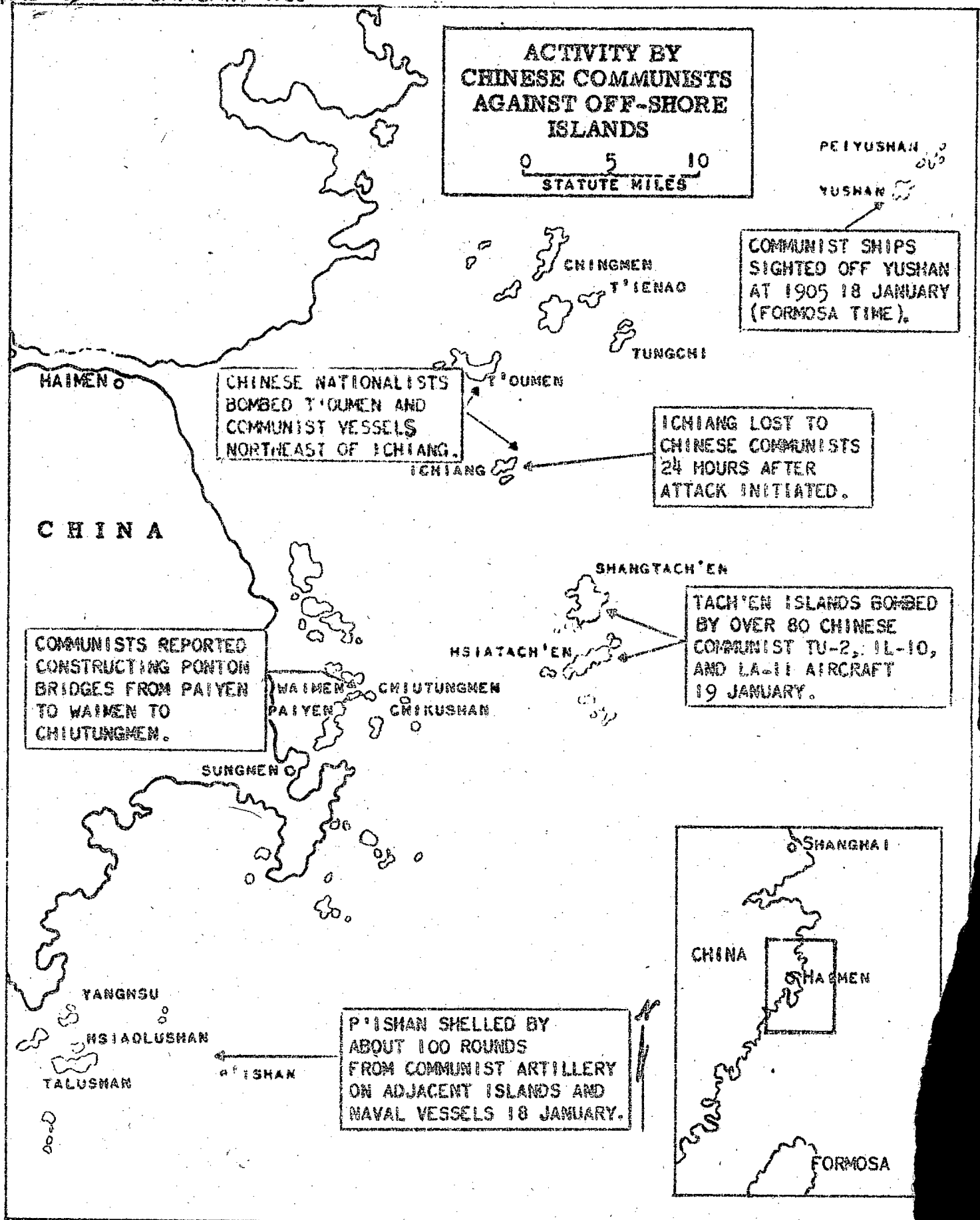


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19 January 1955

DAILY INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING NO. 1,502CHINA (SECRET)112155, 112154, 111880,
111927, 112161

All firing and other activity ceased on Ichiang Island at 1430 on 19 January (Formosa time), according to United States officials on Formosa. (See accompanying map.) The 1,000-man guerrilla force defending this island apparently was able to continue resistance for 24 hours after the Chinese Communist landing on 18 January¹.

The Chinese Communists conducted another heavy air attack on the Chinese Nationalist-held Tach'en Islands beginning at 1200 on 19 January (Formosa time), according to United States officials on the Tach'ens. The bombing continued until 1330 (Formosa time), and it was reported that 80 TU-2's, supported by MIG's, LA-11's, and IL-10's, made the attack. There is no information concerning casualties or damage.

At 1920 on 18 January (Formosa time), Communist vessels and artillery on adjacent islands shelled P'ishan Island. An unknown number of Communist vessels again shelled P'ishan at 2120 hours. Nationalist officials on the Yushan Islands reported at 1905 on 18 January that Chinese Communist ships were near the Yushans and that many lights were observed about 10 miles west of the islands.

A captured fisherman stated that the Chinese Communists were planning to build a ponton bridge between Chiutungmen Island and Paiyen. This information was partly confirmed on 17 January by aerial photography which showed pontons between Chiutungmen and Waimen (a small island between the former and Paiyen).

On 19 January, Chinese Nationalist planes bombed T'oumen Island as well as Communist ships northwest of P'ishan and northeast of Ichiang.

Comment: The reason for the construction of a ponton bridge to Chiutungmen Island is unknown, but such a bridge would facilitate supply of ammunition for artillery pieces reportedly located there. Artillery pieces on Chiutungmen Island would be firing at extreme maximum effective range if directed at targets on the Tach'ens. The Communists possibly plan to place artillery on this island to provide cover for Communist vessels operating between the mainland and the Tach'ens and to deny this area to Nationalist vessels.

As reported in DIB, 18 Jan 55.

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The relatively heavy 19 January air attack against the Tach'ens, the seizure of the Ichiangs, the shelling of P'ishan, and naval activity in the area of the Yushans indicate that the Communists are determined to eliminate the Nationalists from this area. It is believed that the Chinese Communists will continue their intensification of air, naval, and artillery activity against this northern group of islands.

The Nationalist position in the Tach'en area has sharply deteriorated since 10 January, and an early Communist assault against the Tach'ens can be expected. The Communists probably will seize P'ishan first, and possibly the Yushans, before attacking the Tach'en Islands. Although the recent attacks against the Tach'ens may be part of a Communist plan to force a Nationalist withdrawal from this area, it is believed more likely that the Communists will attack the islands to destroy the defending Nationalist forces.

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